



# Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly  
Assessment Newsletter  
March 2003

## Assessment for Learning

### MontCAS, Phase 1, The Iowa Tests

**IMPORTANT DATE: April 7, 2003**

- Last date for **school administrators** to fax authorized signature form for student participation validation to OPI, Maria Bates, fax (406) 444-1369.
- Last date for test coordinators to send answer documents and orders to Riverside.



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent  
Office of Public Instruction  
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### Shipping Reminders

- Package on-grade (4, 8, 11) and off-grade (other than 4, 8, 11) materials **separately**.
- Use the labels provided in the 2003 trailer package: 761 District Drive, Itasca, IL 60143
- **Attention:** County Superintendents and test coordinators for more than one system—Please remember to package each system separately.

### IOWA TEST RESULTS—Put These Dates on Your Calendars

<p><b>May 13, 10:00 am - noon</b> Site details will be included on the registration and in the April newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Billings</li> <li>o Bozeman</li> <li>o Butte</li> <li>o Glendive</li> <li>o Great Falls</li> <li>o Havre</li> <li>o Helena</li> <li>o Missoula</li> <li>o Sidney</li> </ul>	<p><b>Video Conference:</b> Iowa Test Results: Reading the Reports Online registration will be available April 15-May 10 at <a href="http://www.opi.state.mt.us/regforms/results/index.html">http://www.opi.state.mt.us/regforms/results/index.html</a></p> <p>The video conference will also be available on video tape and online through video.</p>
<p><b><i>Districts will receive test results beginning April 11. Answer documents are scored and results are sent to districts on a first-in/first out basis. Test coordinators and districts will have two opportunities to review their results:</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Within 10 days of District Receipt of Iowa Test Results from Riverside</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Districts review Iowa Test reports.</li> <li>• Test coordinators will receive an explanatory letter and the Riverside Report Validation Form directly from Riverside the week of March 24.</li> <li>• The form is to be used <b>if</b>, after review of the results, a district sees discrepancies.</li> <li>• Only districts noting discrepancies need to submit the form.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Early August</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Districts review online disaggregated data prepared by OPI.</li> <li>• In early August, districts will receive notice from OPI that disaggregated data is online on a secure site.</li> <li>• Districts will use their user name and password to access and review their data.</li> <li>• Instructions for reviewing the data and procedures for contacting OPI about discrepancies will be included with the notification.</li> </ul>

## MontCAS, Phase 2, The Criterion-Referenced Test

### Teacher as Assessor Workshops

Invitations have been mailed to each school administrator. Copies of the invitation and the overview are online: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/Workshopinv.pdf> and <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/WorkshopOutline.pdf> The registration deadline is April 11. Registration is online at: <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org> Renewal units will be available.

### Criterion-Referenced Test Pilot

Manuals for test coordinators and tests administrators have been mailed to test coordinators in districts selected for the pilot. Other important dates include:

**March 28**—Measured Progress will begin mailing pilot test materials to districts. Materials will arrive in Montana April 2-4.

**April 14 - 25**—Pilot test

**April 28**—Schools return all testing materials to district test coordinator

## MontCAS, Phase 1 and Phase 2

The Office of Public Instruction is working with both Phase 1 (the Iowa Tests) and Phase 2 (the criterion-referenced tests) to meet the requirements of a compliance agreement between OPI and the United States Department of Education and the No Child Left Behind Act. This work requires coordinating the five-year comprehensive plans and adequate yearly progress (AYP). Below is an anticipated schedule of the process of coordinating these systems and testing in Montana from Spring 2003 - Fall 2004. You will see that the Iowa Tests (NRT) are scheduled for 2004. They are needed for the linking study which will serve as a bridge between the Iowa Tests and the criterion-referenced tests.

### Anticipated Schedule for Spring 2003 - Fall 2004 No Child Left Behind Act and Montana Assessment

Spring 2003	NAEP testing in grades 4 and 8 and reading and math in a sample of Montana schools
March 2003	Norm-referenced test (NRT—the Iowas) Grades 4, 8, and 11 Reading, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science
April 2003	Criterion-referenced test (CRT) Pilot in a sample of Montana schools Grades 3 - 8, and 10 Reading and Math
March 2004	Norm-referenced test (NRT—the Iowas) Grades 4, 8, 11, and a sample of 2000 grade 10 students
Spring 2004	Criterion-referenced test (CRT) Grades 4, 8, 10 Reading and Math
Spring and Summer 2004	Linking Study for Criterion-referenced test (CRT)
Summer 2004	Standard Setting for Criterion-referenced test (CRT)
Late Summer 2004	Measured Progress will ship test results
Fall 2004	Reestablish Starting Point on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on Criterion-referenced test (CRT) and Norm-referenced test (NRT—the Iowas)

## NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) Contacts at OPI

Welcome to our new Montana NAEP Coordinator:

Donna O'Neill, 406-444-0793, [doneill@state.mt.us](mailto:doneill@state.mt.us)

NAEP Assistant: Lindy Miller, 406-444-6774, [lindmiller@state.mt.us](mailto:lindmiller@state.mt.us)

### Grant for Limited English Student Assessment

A \$1.9 million grant has been awarded to Montana and a group of western states to develop an assessment tool for students with limited English proficiency. The Mountain West Assessment Consortium includes states in the west and northern plains regions—Oregon, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana, Alaska and the Bureau of Indian Affairs—and Measured Progress, Inc., a not-for-profit educational assessment organization. In accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act, the grant will provide for a state-wide assessment of limited English proficient students in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension to be administered annually.

The consortium has been meeting since the fall of 2002. It is anticipated that teams of teachers will be recruited for item development beginning in April and May of 2003 with item review and bias review to follow in the summer.

Lynn Hinch, OPI Bilingual Specialist, led the OPI team of Nancy Coopersmith, BJ Granbery, and Judy Snow.

***Thank You . . .***

***for all the good input  
and questions.***



***This is truly a team effort,  
and you are a great team.***

For further information, contact:  
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